

In reference to the proposed changes to the current license structure of the Amateur Radio Service. Items - RM-10867 through RM-10868

I concur with the proposed changes to restructure the Amateur Radio Operator Licenses as supported by the ARRL and the NCVEC.

Forced knowledge of Morse does not bring anything valuable to the process any longer. I would not want to see Morse removed as an option for an operator, it does fill a limited need for emergency communications. However, with the advent of mostly voice or electronic communications Morse should no longer be a required skill for gaining HF privileges.

Revamp the testing towards the digital and phone operations, continue to modernize the testing to keep up with the ever changing developments in radio. Allow Morse Code as a legitimate service as phone is now.

As to the 3 classes of licenses, the entry level class should be limited to the current Technician Class (No Code) of 50mhz and up low power (less than 100 watts). The new mid-class license (combining of No Code Techs/Techs/Generals) should have the same HF privileges that the current General Class Operators have.

The Ultra Class should retain the toughest testing and I would like to see a periodic review of anyone holding the Ultra Class to insure the highest class license holders are maintaining those skills.

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